

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire January 22, 2005. In the present Amendment, Claims 13, 16 and 19 are amended. Claims 13-21 are now pending.

COMMENTS

Applicants note with appreciation the teleconference held with the Examiner on January 13, 2005 to discuss the proposed amendments. Applicants and the Examiner came to an agreement that the proposed amendment to exemplary Claim 13 would place Claim 13 in condition for allowance. Applicants have made similar changes to independent Claims 16 and 19, which now include the limitation of a first device being "selectively disabled during the POST, and wherein the selectively disabling" is dependent on a second device "being prevented from inputting a signal during the POST."

If Applicants have misunderstood the agreement so stated, Applicants respectfully request that their representative James E. Boice be contacted at the telephone number shown below.

Applicants also agreed to supply the attached evidence that the cited prior art (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,171, issued to Johnson et al. - "*Johnson*") and the present application have International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) as a common assignee. Thus, *Johnson* would be unavailable if cited as 102(e) art in a 103 obviousness rejection under MPEP 706.02(k), since the present application was filed on December 6, 1999 and *Johnson* issued on August 1, 2000. *Johnson* is assigned to IBM, as evidenced on its face, and the present application is assigned to IBM, as evidenced by the attached Notice of Recordation of the USPTO's Assignment Document, showing application 09/455,104 as being assigned to IBM and duly recorded on Reel 010448, Frame 0516 in the USPTO Assignment Division.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons so stated, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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